

North Chicago, IL – After reports last week indicated that a gate at Great Lakes Naval Base would not open as planned, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk announced today that the U.S. Navy will now open the gate to commuter traffic. The decision comes after discussions between Congressman Kirk and the Secretary of the Navy.

“Opening Gate 4 is a vital component of the revitalization of North Chicago and the Sheridan Crossing development,” said Congressman Kirk. “The increased traffic will bring new life and new businesses to the area, resulting in more jobs and prosperity for the City. The Secretary of the Navy made the commitment to open the gate six years ago and today they are following through on that promise. I am grateful that the Navy’s leaders remain committed to opening the gate and building a partnership with North Chicago.”

The gate, which is located at the crossing of Martin Luther King Drive and the Union Pacific rail line, closed in 1990. When the gate reopens, thousands of sailors and civilian employees will have direct access to businesses that will be built at the intersection.

“Gate 4 will open on schedule and on budget to full commuter traffic to reduce gridlock in the community and to help North Chicago restart its business district,” said Rear Admiral Jon Bayless, Commander of the Navy’s Midwest Region. “This project represents a true partnership between the \$4 million Navy contribution, \$1.5 million Commerce Department contribution, and \$3.8 million city bond for the benefit of both the community and the Navy.”